

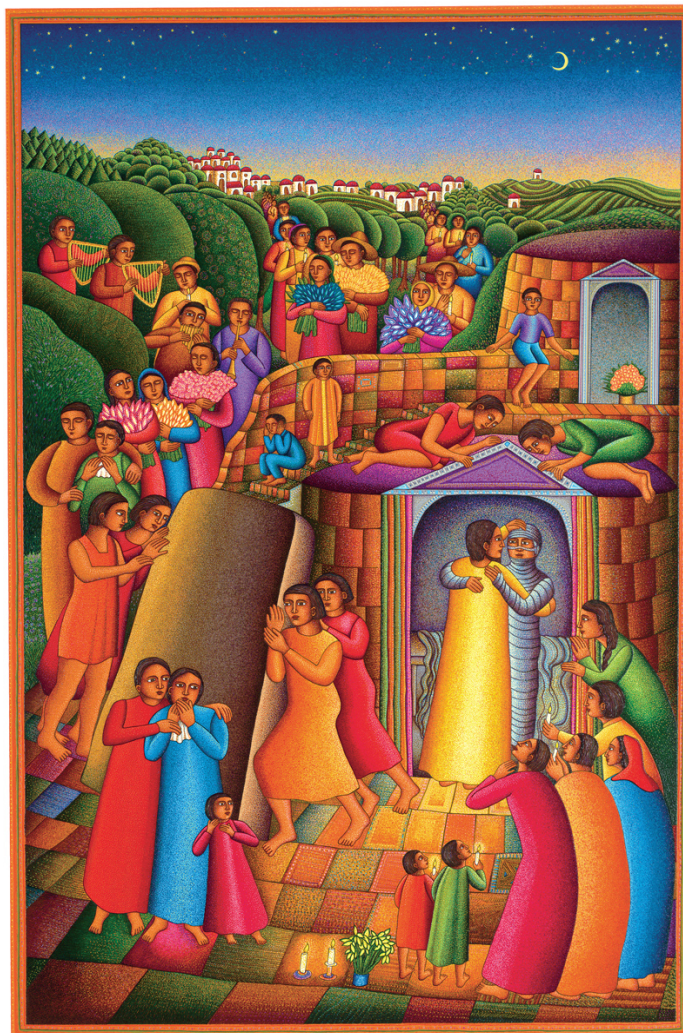


Church of the Nativity, Hamilton

Holy Eucharist

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26th, 2023



WEB & LARGE PRINT EDITION

Called to Life — Compelled to Love



The territory where the Church of the Nativity resides has long been tended by many Indigenous peoples including the Neutrals, the Mississauga, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee. With them, we are members of the Dish with One Spoon wampum, and we will strive to live up to our responsibility as treaty members and respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the nations of this place and the heritage and gifts of Métis people.

May our actions be guided by our commitment to reconciliation.

All are welcome in the worship and fellowship of the Church of the Nativity.
May you find grace and hope in this service.

COVID-19 Precautions: Our in-person services continue to be offered under the guidelines and directions from the Diocese of Niagara and Public Health as we strive to worship and protect the health of all who attend. Details about our Green Stage precautions can be found at <https://worshipwithnativity.org/what-do-worship-services-look-like-now/>

Streaming: Our principal services are streamed to YouTube. We try to minimize individuals' appearances on camera. The beginning of the streaming is marked with an announcement, and then the service will continue as follows.

Prelude

Music is offered to provide a time for quiet prayer and preparation.

A bell is rung, and the service begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity,
one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures for ever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
all hearts are open to you.
No secrets are hidden from you.
Purify us with the fire of your Holy Spirit
that we may love and worship you faithfully,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Merciful God,
we have sinned in thought, word, and deed:
we are truly sorry,
and repent and turn to you.
Renew our lives by your Spirit
in the image of Jesus Christ our Saviour,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you

The Collect ¹

Let us pray.

God of all consolation,
your Son comforted the grieving sisters, Martha and Mary,
for your breath alone brings life
to dry bones and weary souls.

Pour out your Spirit upon us,
so that we may face despair and death
with the hope of the resurrection and faith in the One
who called Lazarus forth from the grave;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Unfolding the Scriptures

1st Reading

Ezekiel assures the exiled people of Israel that they will be restored to life and hope.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, ‘Mortal, can these bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your

own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

Ezekiel 37.1 – 14

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
**If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared.
**I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits for you;
in your word is my hope.**

My soul waits for you, O Lord,
more than sentinels for the morning,
more than sentinels for the morning.
**O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

with whom there is plenteous redemption,
and who shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

As a result of God's love we are empowered to live a new life in the Spirit.

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Romans 8. 6 – 11

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The acclamation is sung

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful,
in the Lord I will re - joice!
Look to God, do not be a - fraid;
lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near;
lift up our voic - es, the Lord is near. In the

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

♪ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the

Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.'

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.'

Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

John 11.1—45

The Gospel of Christ.

♪ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** ♪

Homily

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine,
Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

**Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Amen.

The Prayers of the People

V Merciful God,
R **receive our prayer.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you!
And also with you.

Feasting at the Table

Offertory Hymn # 532

What a Friend We Have in Jesus ⁴

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake us? Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus's strength will shield our weakness, and we'll find new courage there.**

If you wish to make a monetary gift, you can do so at any time by mailing a cheque to the church (1831 King Street East, Hamilton, ON L8K 1V8) or via e-transfer to donations.nativity@gmail.com

Prayer over the Gifts ⁵

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus,
the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ⁶

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven,
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as daughters and sons in our God's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, Holy One,
 for Christ in whom the world is reconciled.

When Jesus was lifted on the Cross,
 death was swallowed up in victory,
 that life and light might reign.

Before Jesus was given up to suffering and death,
 recalling the night of Israel's release,
 the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
 your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We now obey your Son's command,
recalling his passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of your reign.

Made one with Jesus,
we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, gracious God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by your life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your reign.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love until at last,
in your new creation, we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our sisters and brothers, living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages, world without end.

A musical score for the hymn 'Amen, Amen, Amen.' The score is written for a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: 'A - men, A - men, A - men.' The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus teaches us
in the language and version of our comfort:

Our Father

**in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.**

**who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

We keep silent and pray for a short time.

The Breaking of the Bread⁷

We break this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
**If we have died with Christ, we shall live with Christ.
If we hold firm, we shall reign with Christ.**

Come, all people: this is Christ's table to which all are invited.
Come, for all is ready.
Thanks be to God!

All who are unable to be physically present to receive the eucharist may wish to pray one of the following prayers of reception for spiritual communion ⁸:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

or

Come, Lord Jesus, and make in my heart your dwelling place and home. I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

or

Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine. I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated from you. Amen.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God⁹

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.**

Prayer after Communion ¹⁰

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbours
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

Doxology ¹¹

Glory to God,
**whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.**
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Parish Announcements

Solemn Prayer over the People ¹²

Let us bow down before the Lord.

Look with compassion, O Lord, upon this your people;
that, rightly observing this holy season,
they may learn to know you more fully,
and to serve you with a more perfect will;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing¹³

O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf, ye voiceless ones,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
and leap, ye lame, for joy!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.

Dismissal

Go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Your Daily Prayers are Requested:

For the Church:

our Bishop: Susan
our diocese: all the people of the Diocese of Niagara;
cycle: the parish of St. Luke, Oakville;
wider: Anne, our metropolitan archbishop;
Linda, our primate;
the Anglican Church of South America;

For those in our parish cycle of prayer:

Albert;
Sydney & Dawn;
Bob & Margaret;

For the needs of the world:

for the women and children of Afghanistan;
for the earthquake response in Türkiye and Syria;

For peace:

Ukraine, South Sudan, Yemen, and all places of conflict

For those we know in need of healing

For those who have died, and those who mourn:

Margaret Koropatnicki

**Thank you for your daily prayers
for the people, worship, fellowship, and ministries
of the Church of the Nativity**

Food Drive!

The 21st Hamilton Rangers have years! They're **2023**.



Pathfinders and 2nd Hamilton called the Nativity home for many holding a food drive on **April 3,**

Let's help make their food drive one to remember! **Bring in non-perishable food items next Sunday—April 2nd**—and we'll join in helping to replenish area food banks' ability to support people experiencing food vulnerability!



The Church of the Nativity

worshipwithnativity.org



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The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Reverend Canon Matthew Griffin
The Reverend Canon David Linn
The Reverend Deacon Larry Collinson
Mr. Peter Harding
Mrs. Laura Brintnell

Bishop of Niagara
Rector
Honorary Assistant
Parish Deacon
Director of Music
Parish Administrator

Mrs. Jan Collinson
Mr. David Eccles
Mr. Doug Lampman

Wardens

Sources

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<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58578> [retrieved March 21, 2023].
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¹ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*.

² *A Liturgical Psalter: General Synod 2016 Edition*. Anglican Church of Canada.

³ Church of England, *Common Worship*. Affirmation Eg. cf *Philippians 2.6—11*

⁴ Text: Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819—86), alt. Music: Charles Crozat Converse (1832—1918). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons*.

⁶ *The Scottish Liturgy 1982*. Scottish Episcopal Church. 1982, rev. 2022.

⁷ *Book of Alternative Services*, alt.

⁸ Selected from the prayers provided for this use in “A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion,” Diocese of Niagara, 2020.

⁹ Text: Edwin Hatch (1835—89). Music Robert Jackson (1840—1914). Used under OneLicense A-604280.

¹⁰ *Sundays and Seasons*.

¹¹ *Book of Alternative Services*.

¹² *The Book of Occasional Services 2003*. 2004, Church Publishing Fund. The Episcopal Church.

¹³ Text: Charles Wesley (1707—88), alt. Music: Thomas Haweis (1734—1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe the Younger (1770?—1843). Used under OneLicense A-604280.